



May 3, 2007

(Online at <http://democrats.assembly.ca.gov/members/a27/enewsletter.htm>)

Health Insurance for Every Kid in California Approved by Assembly Committee

It has been said often that 2007 is the year for healthcare reform in California. I've authored AB 1 to provide health insurance for every kid in California as a logical and important first step in the effort to make true progress on reform this year.

At the bill's recent hearing in the Assembly Health Committee, Katy Boriak, a working single parent from Santa Cruz, gave moving testimony about the value of her 2-year-old having health coverage. Ms. Boriak said, "I think about the 'what ifs' and I think about what would happen if my child didn't have affordable and accessible coverage. I just don't know what I would do."

AB 1 would provide health insurance to the nearly 763,000 children in California currently without it. I'm pleased the bill passed its first major test in the Assembly, thanks in part to the bill's support among business leaders, health professionals and educators. And I'm heartened to know a strong majority of Californians want comprehensive coverage for all our children in the state. For more about the bill, please read [this press release](#) and follow the bill's progress [online](#).

John Laird

Press Release (5/1/07): Eco-friendly Auto Repair Shop Named Small Business of the Year

SACRAMENTO – [Assemblymember John Laird](#) (D-Santa Cruz) today named Water Star Motors as Small Business of the Year in association with California Small Business Day. Water Star Motors owners Henry and Lisa Carter will be honored in Sacramento tomorrow for their tireless efforts to follow "green" business practices in their auto repair business. Mr. Laird selected Water Star Motors because it has been certified as a green business by the Monterey Bay Area Green Business Program, in association with Ecology Action.

"Water Star Motors is leading the way on the Central Coast on green business

Laird Legislation Update

Partial list of bills approved by policy committees in the Assembly:

[Health Insurance For All California Children](#) (AB 1)

[Civil Rights Act of 2007](#) (AB 14)

[Needle Exchange](#) (AB 110)

[Water Conservation/ High-efficiency Toilets](#) (AB 715)

[Residential Green Building Standards](#) (AB 1058)

[Planning for Sea Level Rise](#) (AB 1066)

[CA Coastal Trail](#) (AB 1396)

[Click here for more about John's 2007 legislative package.](#)

John in the District

5/4 Monterey Bay Central Labor Council Annual Dinner, Monterey

5/5 Coastal Property Owners Association meeting, Santa Cruz

5/11 Health Improvement Partnership of Santa Cruz County Summit, Scotts Valley

5/17 Homeless Services Center Annual Soupline Supper, Santa Cruz

5/19 Queer Youth Awards, Santa Cruz

5/25 Gavilan College Graduation Ceremony, Gilroy

practices,” said Assemblymember Laird. “By enthusiastically maintaining certification as a green business, Water Star Motors is making a strong statement about the value of doing well as a business by doing good for the environment. I’m proud to name Water Star Motors as 2007 Small Business of the Year for the 27th Assembly District.”

About Water Star Motors

Water Star Motors is a family-owned-and-operated auto repair shop located in Santa Cruz. Now in its 12th year of business, Water Star Motors specializes in imported cars and uses ASE-certified mechanics. For more information, visit <http://www.waterstarmotors.com>.

About the Monterey Bay Area Green Business Program

The Monterey Bay Area Green Business Program is a successful partnership of environmental agencies, utilities and nonprofit organizations that assist, recognize and promote businesses and government agencies that volunteer to operate in a more environmentally responsible way. To be certified "green," participants must be in compliance with all regulations and meet program standards for conserving resources, preventing pollution and minimizing waste. The program offers motivated businesses and agencies an easy-to-use framework for improving environmental performance. For more information, visit <http://www.montereybaygreenbusiness.org/index.html>.

About the Small Business of the Year Award

Each year the California Small Business Association convenes California Small Business Day in Sacramento, CA. California Small Business Day was unanimously passed in 2000 by the California State Assembly as Resolution No. 5, the resolution resolved that the Assembly in recognition of the importance of small business to the economy of the state declares a Wednesday of May each year California Small Business Day. The day’s focus is on giving small business in California the recognition they deserve for their outstanding contributions to California. The day is comprised of speakers and an open dialogue with important legislative leaders. These honorees are hand-selected by legislators for their dedication and service within the district.

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Key Links to John’s Website

[State Budget Resources](#) • [Legislation Authored by John](#)

[Global Warming Resources](#)

[John’s Press Releases](#) • [John in the News](#) • [Op-eds by John](#)

If you’re receiving this as a forwarded email and would like to receive regular Laird updates, please send an email with “Subscribe” in the subject line to Assemblymember.Laird-newsletter@assembly.ca.gov. If you would prefer to not receive email updates, please respond with “Unsubscribe” in the subject line.

Recent Accolades

“Good Times” Newsweekly—
*named 2007 Best Local
Politician*

“Metro Santa Cruz
Newsweekly”—*named Goldies
2007 Best Politician*

Environment California—
Environmental Champion Award

CA League of Conservation
Voters—*earned 100% score for
2006 legislative session*

CA Labor Federation—*earned
100% score for 2006 legislative
session*

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